



219 North Main Street, Suite 402, Barre, VT 05641 | 802-479-1030 | [www.education.vermont.gov](http://www.education.vermont.gov)

## **Norwich Educator John Minelli Receives International Award for ‘Making IT Happen’ in Education Technology**

**BARRE** – John Minelli, a Technology Educator, was honored with the coveted *Making IT Happen* jacket earlier in May for his contributions to the successful integration of technology in education in K–12 schools. The [Making IT Happen award](#) is provided by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), of which Vita-Learn, Vermont’s education technology professional development organization, is an affiliate.

While attending the May 15<sup>th</sup> Dynamic Landscapes conference in Burlington, Minelli was honored by [Vita-Learn](#) for his dedication to education and successful integration of technology in the classroom. The *Making IT Happen* program has made a commitment to work with state and national organizations to identify individuals who are truly *Making IT Happen* within their respective state or region and to recognize them publicly.

During the award ceremony, Minelli was described as a tireless contributor to the continued development of technology as a learning tool in the schools in his district, which is [SAU #70](#), a cross-border School Administrative Unit with neighboring New Hampshire. Minelli works chiefly in Marion Cross Elementary School in Norwich.

Paul Irish, Vita-Learn Executive Director, described Minelli’s invaluable contributions to educational technology through his work both locally, regionally and statewide to continue promoting technology as a tool for increased success in learning for students.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, Minelli was also honored locally by Peter Drescher, the Education Technology Coordinator for the Agency of Education, for his contribution to his local school with regards to technology as a tool for learning. Drescher spoke briefly at the School Board meeting in Norwich and presented Minelli with a Certificate of Recognition. Drescher was also pleased to announce to the School Board and audience in attendance that SAU #70, under the leadership of Dr. Frank Bass, has granted Minelli travel to the [ISTE](#) conference in late June to represent Vermont along with *Making IT Happen* award recipients from around the world.

“We are so pleased to see John take home this award, and doubly pleased that he can represent Vermont in Atlanta at the national conference. I have known John since coming to VT in 2003, and his involvement in both state and local education technology projects is inspiring. John really embodies the forward-thinkers that we need in education today,” said Drescher.

Successful integration of educational technology requires a common passion, initiative and

pledge that can best be summarized by the *Making IT Happen* Formula of Success:

1. Educators and leaders who apply available technology now.
2. Move forward and don't look back.
3. See students as real people.
4. Teach through relationships by inspiring, encouraging, and nurturing.
5. Recognize that further change is necessary, but understand that it is a process.
6. Realize that teacher empowerment is the key element to technology integration.
7. Expect success.
8. Motivate through awareness and access to information.

Minelli joins a prestigious group of *Making IT Happen* honorees, including an elite list of recipients here in Vermont: Tim Comolli, Lauren Parren, David Davidson, Josh Seamon and Arlyn Brucoli. Vita-Learn began presenting the Award in 2011.

### **About Making IT Happen**

Founded in 1995, the *Making IT Happen* program highlights the dramatic role educators are having on the learning process by using technology and rewards those individuals for their commitment and innovation. To date, more than 500 individuals have been awarded this recognition through ISTE and its affiliates. The impact of this program has been felt at numerous conferences around the world. The focus of the *Making IT Happen* program is on current practitioners, highlighting their significant contribution and encouraging them to continue their work. *Making IT Happen* recipients are in the classroom, making it happen for learners every day. Learn more about the *Making IT Happen* award here: <http://bit.ly/1pg6rdm>.

### **About ISTE**

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE ®) is the premier membership association for educators and education leaders engaged in advancing excellence in learning and teaching through the innovative and effective use of technology in PK-12 and teacher education. Home to ISTE's [annual conference](#) and exposition and the widely adopted [NETS](#), ISTE represents more than 100,000 professionals worldwide. Learn more about ISTE here: <http://www.iste.org>.

Connect with the Vermont Agency of Education on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/VTEducation>), Facebook ([www.facebook.com/VTEducation](http://www.facebook.com/VTEducation)) and YouTube ([www.youtube.com/VTEducation](http://www.youtube.com/VTEducation)).

###